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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 12:43am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Three years ago, the U.S. Department of Justice charged Microsoft with having engaged in anti-competitive behavior based on allegations by its top competitors. Many have argued, and I believe, that Microsoft was singled out by its jealous competitors and sympathetic government bureaucrats because of its success and a desire to see it punished.

I am aware that the Justice Department is in the final stages of deliberating on the proposed Microsoft settlement to decide whether to accept the settlement or to litigate it further. I strongly believe that the proposed settlement offers a reasonable compromise that will enhance the ability of seniors and all Americans to access the internet and use innovative software products to make their computer experience easier and more enjoyable.

In my opinion it appears that a few of Microsoft's competitors have continued their aggressive lobbying campaign to undermine the settlement negotiated with the federal government and nine states. The settlement itself is tough on Microsoft, but is a fair outcome for all parties -- particularly senior consumers. Most important, this settlement will have a very positive impact on the American economy and will help pull us from the recession we have experienced over the past year. Consumer interests have been well served, and the time to end this costly and damaging litigation has come.

Dragging out this legal battle further will only benefit a few wealthy competitors, lawyers, and special interest big-wigs. Not one new product that helps consumers will be brought to the marketplace.

Respectfully,

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